



# INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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20-09-2011

## Baltic Sea Regional Project – Phase 1

GEFID#: 922, World Bank Project ID#: P048795, Project Status: Completed



1. The Baltic Sea Regional Project (BSRP) successfully created some preconditions for application of the ecosystems approach in managing the Baltic Sea Large Marine Ecosystem.
2. Preliminary outcomes of networks and pilots established under the project have contributed to the substance and quality of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP).
3. Capacity developed by the project and techniques demonstrated laid the foundation for scaling up of environmental investments by later programs.

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## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

*The Global Environmental Objective of the three-phase project was to facilitate the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, improve coastal zone management and reduce agricultural non-point source pollution through the introduction of ecosystem-based approaches in selected localities for land, coastal and open sea environmental management in five countries. The Development Objective of the Project (originally intended as Phase 1) was to “create some preconditions for application of the ecosystems approach in managing the Baltic Sea Large Marine Ecosystem.”*

## RESULTS: PROCESS

*BSRP resulted in improved regional level coordination and cooperation between project stakeholders, including HELCOM, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Worldwide Fund of Nature (WWF), Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission (IBSCF) and regional stakeholders.*

INDICATOR#1 Institutional arrangements are in place for joint monitoring, assessment and evaluation of living marine resources.

Near 100% achieved. The networks established are accepted by all parties and will be used in the continuing work of HELCOM and ICES.

INDICATOR#2 Stakeholder involvement in transboundary waterbody priority setting and strategic planning

A network of Coordination Centers (CC) and Lead Laboratories (LL) was fully created and functional, including 5 CCs and 9 LLs.

## RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

*Agri-environmental investment schemes were implemented, surface and ground water monitoring stations were established, and general awareness of environmentally friendly practices was raised among Baltic Sea farmers.*

INDICATOR#1 Increasing number of farms and individual farmers participate in agri-environmental investment scheme [25-30].

84% achieved. In addition, 48 farms that completed Project's EMS training received financing for environmental investments outside BSRP credit scheme, i.e. from other resources.

INDICATOR#2 Surface and ground water monitoring stations established in demonstration watersheds to track the nutrient levels [3]

100% achieved. 2 new monitoring stations constructed (Lithuania, Estonia), 1 renovated and upgraded (Latvia); 4 sets of monitoring equipment purchased (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia-Kaliningrad region).

## RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

*The project achieved restoration of grasslands and/or wetlands in four countries, together with provision of training and equipment, and development of a pilot ecotourism plan. It also succeeded in installation and operation of monitoring systems for marine ecosystems, including strengthening the “ships of opportunity” system (monitors attached to ferry boats)*

INDICATOR#1 Wetland restored [1].

300% achieved. Estonia: 240 ha of coastal wetlands/meadows restored in Kihnu Strait Marine Park; Latvia: 80 ha restored wetland/meadows in Lake Engure area; Lithuania: Aukstumale bog restored as wetland. Sea trout and lamprey river in Western Estonia restored.

INDICATOR#2 A technical assessment and joint monitoring system developed to determine the abundance dynamics of key Baltic fish species, as well as alien species.

90% achieved. System established under project will form the basis of COMBINE program, which will allow continued evaluations of status of Baltic Sea LME.

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